

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 INR-10
PM-05 DODE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 H-01
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P R 221016Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9347
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PORG LE IS UN
SUBJ: 1949 LEBANON-ISRAEL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 211403

1. IN SHORT MEETING WITH BUSY FOREIGN SECRETARY BOUTROS ON AUGUST 22 I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. BOUTROS REPLIED THAT THE GOL HAS NEVER CONSIDERED THE AGREEMENT VOID, AND HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT "THE GOI POSITION HAS SHIFTED." HE SAID (EVIDENTLY REFERRING TO THE DAYAN LETTER OF AUGUST 3) THAT THE GOL DENIES THE GOI CONTENTION THAT THE GOL HAS ABIDED BY SOME PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND NOT OTHERS. THE GOL CONSIDERS THE AGREEMENT TO BE A SINGLE ENTITY IN WHICH ALL PROVISIONS ARE BINDING. THE GOL THEREFORE HAS NO OBJECTION TO REINSTATEMENT OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT REGIME. HOWEVER, HE COMMENTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF DEPLOYING THE LEBANESE ARMY IN THE SOUTH IS ABOVE THE LEVEL OF ILMAC.

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2. I NOTED THAT IF THE ILMAC MEETING ON JULY 30 HAD GONE INTO SECOND SESSION, SOME OF THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH AROSE ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF THE LAF BATTALION TO THE SOUTH MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. BOUTROS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUING THIS DISCUSSION WITH ME AT A LATER DATE, PARTICULARLY THE ISSUE AS TO WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACT

THAT MEETING HAD NOT BEEN RESUMED AFTER THE BREAK.

3. IN AN EARLIER PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH LEBANESE
PERMREP TUEINI, I INFORMED THE LATTER OF THE POSI-
TION WE ARE TAKING ON THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND
ILMAC. TUEINI COMMENTED THAT WITH PERHAPS A VERY FEW
EXCEPTIONS, THE LEBANESE ARMY DOES NOT AT PRESENT HAVE
OFFICERS WHO CAN HANDLE POLITICO-MILITARY WORK AT
THE LEVEL REQUIRED FOR ILMAC MEETINGS. IN THAT CASE,
I SUGGESTED, THE GOL COULD DETAIL EXPERIENCED
DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OFFICERS TO THE LEBANESE DELEGATION
FOR SUCH MEETINGS. I TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR PRACTICE OF
ASSIGNING POLADS FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO SERVE ON
THE STAFF OF MILITARY COMMANDERS.
KINSOLVING

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